Promoting handicrafts in Asia

The project ‘Empowering the women by promoting their handicrafts’ was initiated in collaboration with China Green Foundation, Beijing and Dalit Welfare Association, Nepal with support from the Norwegian Agency for Exchange Cooperation (NOREC), Norway. Purpose of the project was to promote the handicrafts of women artisans produced in India, China and Nepal.

Women of artisan class have traditionally been engaged in many kind of entrepreneurial activities in India, Nepal and China for a long that includes different kind of handicrafts i.e. spinning, weaving (coarse clothe), carpet, durry or cotton mat etc., knitting, embroidery, mirror, patch and art work on garments, making toys, plates from tree leaves, shellac bangles, shoes etc.

Main activities

Participants coming to GBS, India: Ms. Sandhya Shreepaili (Nepal) and Ms. Li Yike (China)
- Studying the quality and designs being produced by the women entrepreneurs and the demand thereof in the international market and advise them to produce accordingly by improving their skill, designs, colors, size, different items currently in force etc.
- Searching international market for cotton mat and embroidery produced by the women entrepreneurs, putting the produce on the website and communicating with the local buyers and importers
- Providing 2 GBS personnel/volunteers with improved skill of cotton mats and embroidery to further disseminate among women entrepreneurs in many other villages of its area of operation
- Providing 2 GBS personnel with all kinds of information and knowledge on exporting Indian handicrafts of cotton mats and embroidery in American and European markets

Participants coming to CGF, China: Mr. Manoj Sangtani (India) and Ms. Asmita Nepali (Nepal)
- Studying Miao Borderland Ethnic Costume Culture Museum and their handicrafts and designing online communication to be established with the young people of the area and attracting them towards the traditional handicrafts of the Miao community
- Studying the difference among the handicrafts produced by the women entrepreneurs of the three countries and creating innovations of quality, design, ethnicity, historical or traditional background etc. among the young artisans
- Providing 2 CGF personnel/volunteers with IT skill to communicate with the young generation of China about Miao culture Museum
- Providing 2 CGF personnel/volunteers with specific knowledge on quality of embroidery of India and Nepal and their difference with of China to encourage the young artisans of China to make innovations in their embroidery work

Participants coming to DWA, Nepal: Ms. Sangya Kusum (India) and Ms. Feng Chao (China)
- Conducting survey in 2 wards in district Kathmandu on the need and skill among Dalit women entrepreneurs and discussing with them the plan of income generation.
- Conducting survey in 2 wards in district Kathmandu on the need and skill among the Dalit women entrepreneurs and developing plan of training them in embroidery and cotton mats.
- Providing 2 DWA personnel/volunteers with findings of survey and developing projects proposals on income generation among Dalit women entrepreneurs
- Providing 2 DWA personnel/volunteers with skill to train the women entrepreneurs in embroidery and cotton mats

**Expected result**

**GBS**
- Improved quality of cotton mat and embroidery produced by the women entrepreneurs
- Access to international market for Indian cotton mat and embroidery made easier

**DWA**
- Proposals submitted to funding agencies for income generation for Dalit women
- A plan was developed for training Dalit women in embroidery and cotton mats

**CGF**
- Designed online communication on the Miao Culture Museum for young people
- Promoted innovations among the young artisans on their traditional handicrafts

**Activities to be completed by the participants after coming home**

The FK participants will continue to:

- Stay in constant touch with their host organization and the women’s groups
- Search adequate market for the women’s handicrafts
- Encourage the women artisans to produce handicrafts according to the latest demands
- Support the women artisans in developing their skill and design etc.
- Update and upgrade their websites

**Period of exchange**

There will be three rounds of exchange of participants (volunteers) each round will be of six months. First round: April to October, 2019

**Training of volunteers**

All the six volunteers going as exchange participants to India, China and Nepal will be provided with one week training before going to their host country and one week training after completing their term at host country. This training will be provided by NOREC in Bangkok on pre decided dates.

**For more details:**